

DOCUMENT 2792

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APO 500
21 December 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 135)
THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch
SUBJECT: Murder, attempted murder, rape and unnecessary
burning of homes at Tiaong, Tayabas Province,
Luzon, P.I., between 13 February and 27 March
1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

On 13 February 1945, unknown Japanese soldiers, believed to have come from Tiaong, entered the barrio of Cabay, Tiaong, and set fire to nine houses with torches made from coconut leaves. Most of the residents of the barrio had hidden but the Japanese discovered some of them and killed eight men with rifle shots and wounded one (R 3, 6, 9).

On 21 March 1945, in the barrio of Quipot, two men and two women civilians were captured by two Japanese soldiers and killed. The two Japanese were members of the SATO unit which was stationed in Tiaong (R 12, 13). On the same day, ten men, women and children in the poblacion of Tiaong were captured by seven Japanese soldiers commanded by a Captain SATO. Six of them were placed in a dugout and the Japanese soldiers then fired rifles among them, killing three of the people in the dugout. The bodies of two other civilians were found near the dugout (R 15, 16).

On 27 March 1945, five children and two women were killed with bayonets in the barrio of Bana by Japanese soldiers believed to have come from Tiaong. Three of the civilians were killed and one wounded in like manner at the same place (R 19, 20, 21). About eight o'clock that night, Captain SATO approached a young Filipino woman in a tunnel in Tiaong, pulled her towards a bed, thrust a pistol against her side and forcibly raped her (R 25). About two o'clock in the morning of the next day, Captain SATO compelled another young Filipino woman to accompany him to a house where, by threatening her with a pistol, he forced her to lie on the floor and submit to an act of sexual intercourse with him (R 29).

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